

HO-558  
Prestage's Folly  
Ellicott City  
Private

Circa 1869

Prestage's Folly faces north on the west side of Old Columbia Pike, opposite Tuten's Cottage. It is a charming building, which has been constructed in three time frames, which now forms somewhat of a "T" plan. It is in its simplicity of scale and massing, as well as its fine site, that the building excels. This site places the building a distance from the road with two large trees on its east elevation providing a horticultural frame for the building. Its setback provides a depth and interest to the streetscape along this section of Old Columbia Pike.

Prestage's Folly is significant to Howard County and the State of Maryland architecturally as a fine example of a mid-nineteenth century house to which late nineteenth and twentieth century additions have been made and historically as part of a tract of land called Prestage's Folly, which was acquired by Dr. William Denny on September 26, 1835. (Anne Arundel County Land Records - Liber 20, folio 362). This land was later acquired by John Martin in 1869 for \$1,000, leading to the belief that the oldest section of the house existed at the time of this sale. This is further corroborated by the fact that the family of Anastasia Martin, the present owners, believe the house to have been constructed shortly after the Civil War.

## MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

HO-558  
Ellicott City Quad  
District 2  
MAGI #1405582528

## INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC Prestage's Folly

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET &amp; NUMBER 3832 Old Columbia Pike (MD 987)

CITY, TOWN

Ellicott City

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

6th

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Howard

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC ACQUISITION	<input type="checkbox"/> ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES RESTRICTED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
			<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Mr. and Mrs. Russell J. Grimes

Telephone #:

STREET &amp; NUMBER

3832 Old Columbia Pike

CITY, TOWN

Ellicott City

VICINITY OF

Maryland STATE zip code

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**COURTHOUSE Tax Map 25A, p. 262  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC Hall of RecordsLiber #: 631  
Folio #: 127

STREET &amp; NUMBER

Howard County Court House

CITY, TOWN

Ellicott City

STATE

Maryland

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

Howard County Historic Sites Inventory

DATE

1978-1979

☐ FEDERAL ☒ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

Maryland Historical Trust

CITY, TOWN

21 State Circle, Annapolis

STATE

Maryland

## 7 DESCRIPTION

HO-558

Ellicott City Quad  
District 2

### CONDITION

☒ EXCELLENT  
☐ GOOD  
☐ FAIR

☐ DETERIORATED  
☐ RUINS  
☐ UNEXPOSED

### CHECK ONE

☐ UNALTERED  
☒ ALTERED

### CHECK ONE

☒ ORIGINAL SITE  
☐ MOVED DATE \_\_\_\_\_

### DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Prestage's Folly faces north on the west side of Old Columbia Pike, opposite Tuten's Cottage. It is a charming building, which has been constructed in three time frames, which now forms somewhat of a "T" plan. It is in its simplicity of scale and massing, as well as its fine site, that the building excels. This site places the building a distance from the road with two large trees on its east elevation providing a horticultural frame for the building. Its setback provides a depth and interest to the streetscape along this section of Old Columbia Pike.

#### THE ORIGINAL HOUSE

Originally, the house faced east a three bay wide, one room deep, two story high, gabled roof (running north-south) frame clapboard house, resting on a stone foundation, with square brick interior chimney rising between its central and north bays, constructed into the center of an interior dividing wall.

Today this section of the house provides a large dining room, located in the central and south bays of this original dwelling unit and a paneled den in its north bay.

The present dining room retains a fine mid-nineteenth century chair rail, bordering random width, beaded wainscotting, which runs around the perimeter of the room, which also features top nailed, random width floor boards. The second floor holds two bedrooms.

Some time in the late nineteenth century the rest of the basic "T" plan was constructed. The east wing was constructed, forming the base of the "T" and extending east from the central and south bays of the original dwelling unit.

#### THE EAST WING

The east wing is a two bay wide, one room deep, two story high, gabled roof (running east-west) frame clapboard section, resting on a stone foundation, with a central, square brick chimney and a one-story high, shed roofed, open porch, supported by two square posts and a pilaster, running along the north elevation. This porch covers the rectangular, roman arched, open bible and cross paneled entrance door, flanked by three vertical side lights and surmounted by a four light transom, which is placed in the west bay of this north wall.

Fenestration for this section of the house is proportionally scaled and vertically aligned. All of its windows are rectangular and double-hung, underlined by projecting wooden sills, with its sashes holding two-over-two lights.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

The south elevation of this wing holds a central first and second floor window of the type described, with the "A" formed by its gabled roof decorated with wooden shingles, which creates a lacy effect on this elevation. This detail, along with the flanking east and west sections of the building and the proportional scale of its central windows, results in a strong visual, focal point for the entire composition.

#### INTERIOR OF THE EAST WING

The interior of the east wing holds a hall and staircase (running north-south) along its west wall and a large living room in its east bay.

The hall features a fine staircase with turned balusters, balustrade and knewel post. The door and window frames of the hall feature flat wooden pilasters and lintels, joined by square corners, decorated with rosettes. Hardwood floors are featured throughout this section.

#### THE SOUTH WING

The south wing of the house was originally one large kitchen, lighted by an east-west and two south windows, with an enclosed staircase along its west wall. Entrances on its north wall led to the east, to the entrance hall and on the west, to the dining room or original section of the house. A square brick chimney is and was centered into its south wall. This wall held a rectangular, outside entrance door, placed in the east end bay, which now leads into a comfortable family room addition. A first floor window is placed on either side of the fireplace.

The west end of the kitchen now is enclosed for use as a bath, while a large brick fireplace has been constructed to feed into the flue of the central square brick chimney of its south wall.

The single east window for the kitchen has been enlarged to a double window, each component an eight-over-eight, double-hung window.

The south window of the kitchen, placed east of the fireplace, is now totally opened and holds two shelves. The south window west of the fireplace is unchanged. Two similar, second floor windows rest above.

The west window for the kitchen now is a west window for the bathroom.

#### THE FAMILY ROOM ADDITION

Along the south wall of this kitchen runs a square, one-story high, shed roofed, frame, family room addition, placed east of center to allow the west bay window of this wall to remain functional.

An open staircase on its east elevation leads to its rectangular entrance door. North of this entrance door rests a rectangular, double-hung window, holding eight-over-eight lights.

The south elevation of this family room holds a double window, each component a rectangular, eight-over-eight, double-hung window.

The west wall of this section holds a similar, but singular, eight-over-eight light window.

**8 SIGNIFICANCE**HO-558  
Ellicott City Quad  
District 2

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1869

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

**STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

Prestage's Folly is significant to Howard County and the State of Maryland architecturally as a fine example of a mid-nineteenth century house to which late nineteenth and twentieth century additions have been made and historically as part of a tract of land called Prestage's Folly, which was acquired by Dr. William Denny on September 26, 1835. (Anne Arundel County Land Records - Liber 20, folio 362) This land was later acquired by John Martin in 1869 for \$1,000, leading to the belief that the oldest section of the house existed at the time of this sale. This is further corroborated by the fact that the family of Anastasia Martin, the present owners, believe the house to have been constructed shortly after the Civil War.

Prestage's Folly is located within the Ellicott City National Register Historic District, as well as the local historic district. It is presently being impacted upon by the Cat Rock Storm Drainage and Sewer Project of the Department of Public Works. The Department of Public Works has made strong recommendations to insure that certain mandatory controls be placed on the project to insure the preservation of the scenic and historic resources along the Cat Rock. Such controls should be carefully monitored during construction.

Not only will this house be affected, but several other homes on Merryman and Hill Streets, all of which are presently within a National Register Historic District.

## 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Interview with Miss Grimes, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Russell J. Grimes.  
Howard County Land Records

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

## 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 3.06 acres

Please see Attachment 1, Tax Map 25A

### VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Please see Howard County Land Records, Liber 631 Folio 127

### LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE Maryland COUNTY Howard

STATE \_\_\_\_\_ COUNTY \_\_\_\_\_

## 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Cleora Barnes Thompson, Archivist

ORGANIZATION

Office of Planning & Zoning-Comprehensive Planning Section

DATE

STREET & NUMBER

3450 Court House Drive

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Ellicott City

STATE

Maryland

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust  
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 267-1438

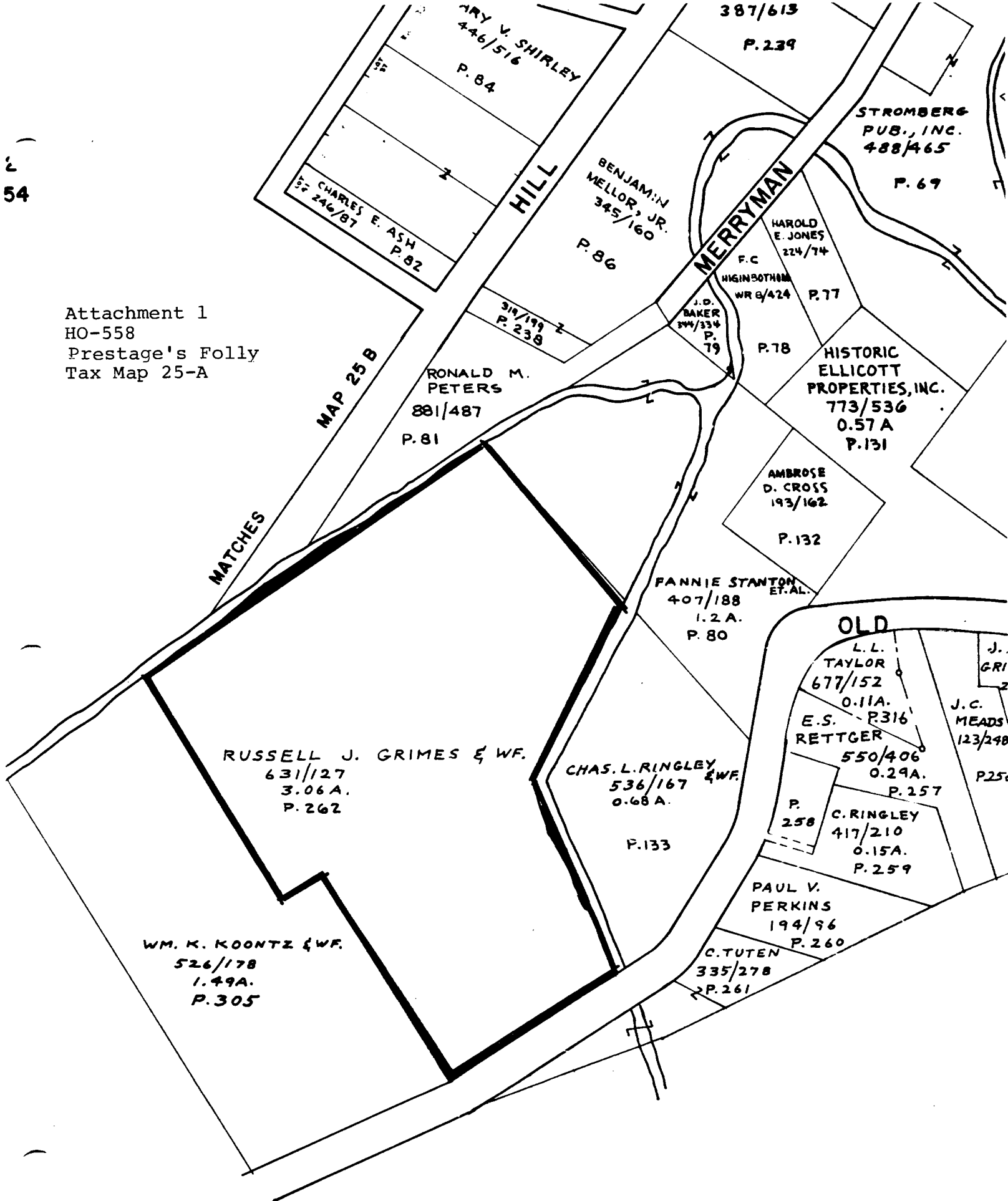
## TITLE SEARCH

HO-558      PRESTAGE'S FOLLY

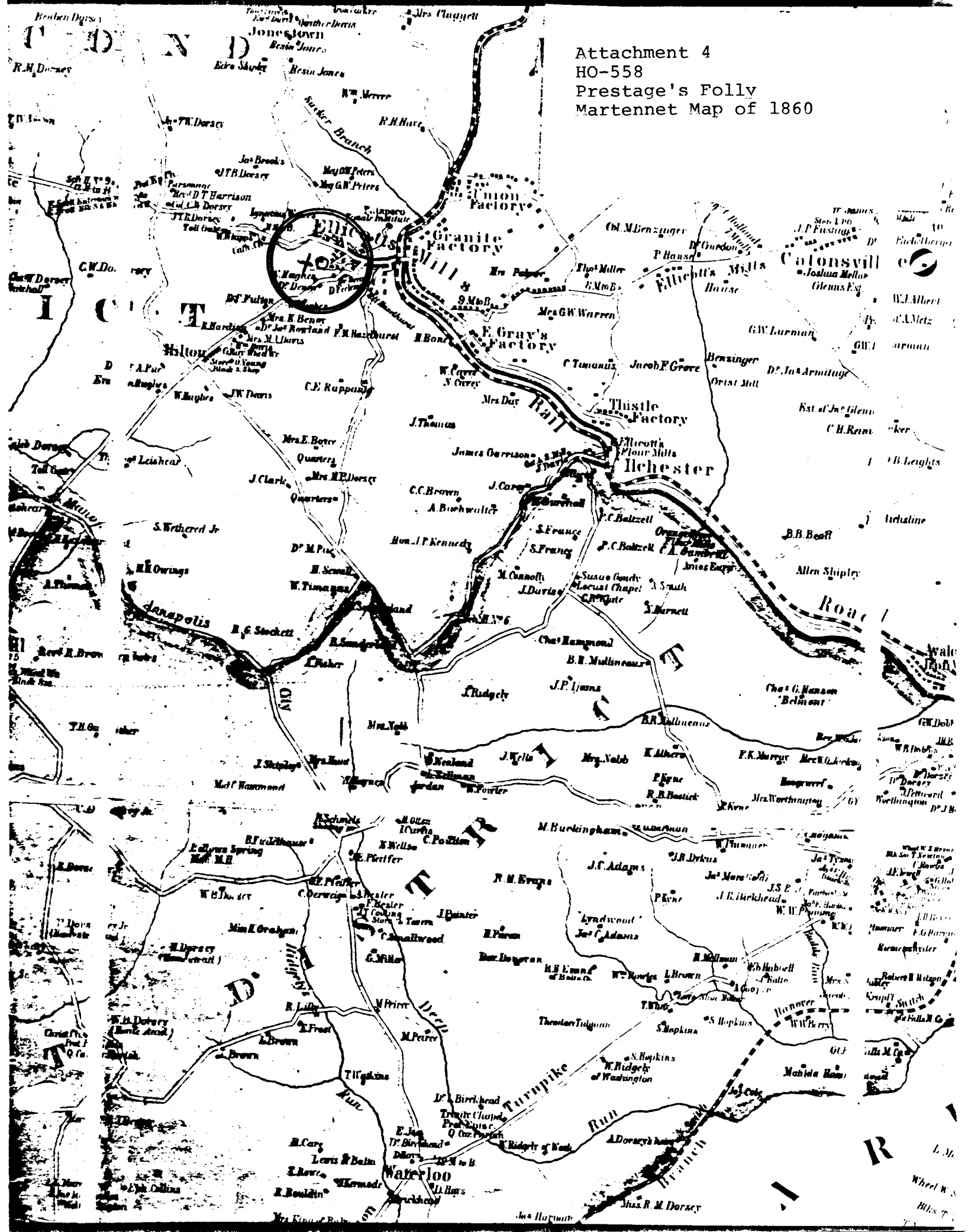
<u>DATE</u>	<u>LIBER</u>	<u>FOLIO</u>	<u>GRANTOR</u>	<u>GRANTEE</u>	<u>TRANSACTION</u>
30 Mar 1973	631 -	127	Katherine May Nelson, for estate of Estelle Koontz	Russell J. Grimes	Deed to 3.06 acres.
13 Jan 1944	180 -	311	Charles E. Miller	Leslie & Estelle Koontz	Deed to 6¼ Acres P/O Tract called Prestage's Folly
26 Oct 1939	165 -	40	John William Martin, Unm.	Charles E. Miller	Deed
25 Oct 1939			J. Dougherty Mahon, Trustee	John W. Martin	Deed
25 July 1939			Mary E. Bildstein, et al.	John W. Martin	Deed
16 Nov. 1937	158 -	445	Michael H. Coomey, Trustee	John W. Martin	Deed
17 Oct. 1918	106 -	178	Michael J. Martin & Helena	Michael H. Coomey, trustee	Deed
25 Feb 1909	86 -	643	Anastasia Martin, widow of John Martin	Michael J. Martin	Deed
26 Sept. 1906	82 -	545	Katharine Gormley, et al	Anastasia Martin, for life	Deed
26 Mar 1886	50 -	371	John Martin	Anastasia Martin, et al	Deed
15 May, 1882	45 -	38	Thomas Nevin	John & Anastasia Martin	Deed
15 April 1869	29 -	114	Thomas Donaldson, Trustee for Henrietta Denny, et al	John Martin	Deed \$1,000.
16 March 1869	29 -	118	Henrietta Denny, widow of Dr. Wm. Denny	Thomas Donaldson, Trustee	3¼ acres
26 Sept 1835	20 - (AA County)	362	Jacob Mann	Dr. William Denny	3¼ acres



Attachment 1  
HO-558  
Prestage's Folly  
Tax Map 25-A



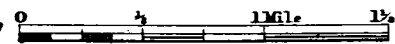
Attachment 4  
HO-558  
Prestage's Folly  
Martennet Map of 1860



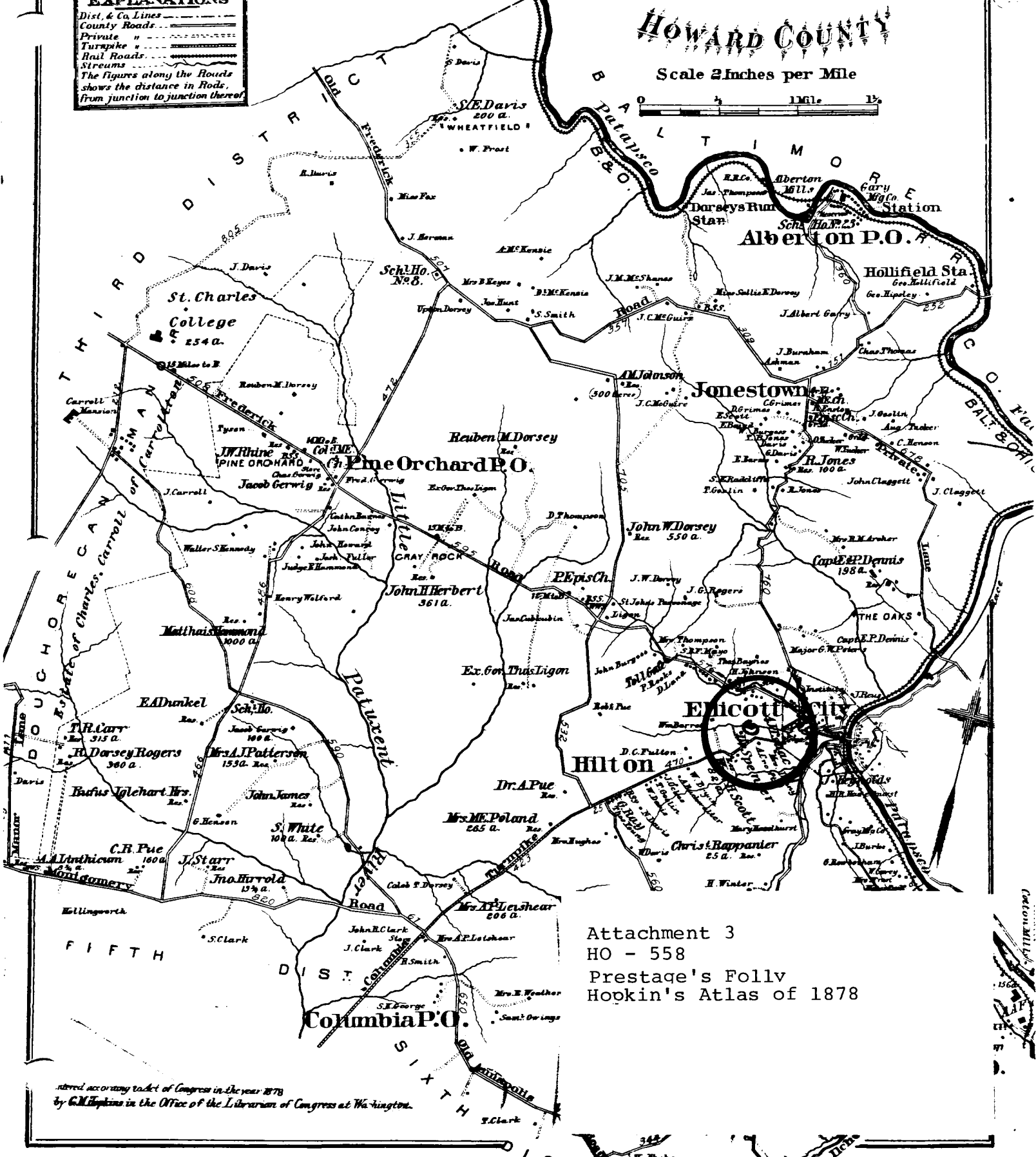
# SECOND DISTRICT

## HOWARD COUNTY

Scale 2 Inches per Mile

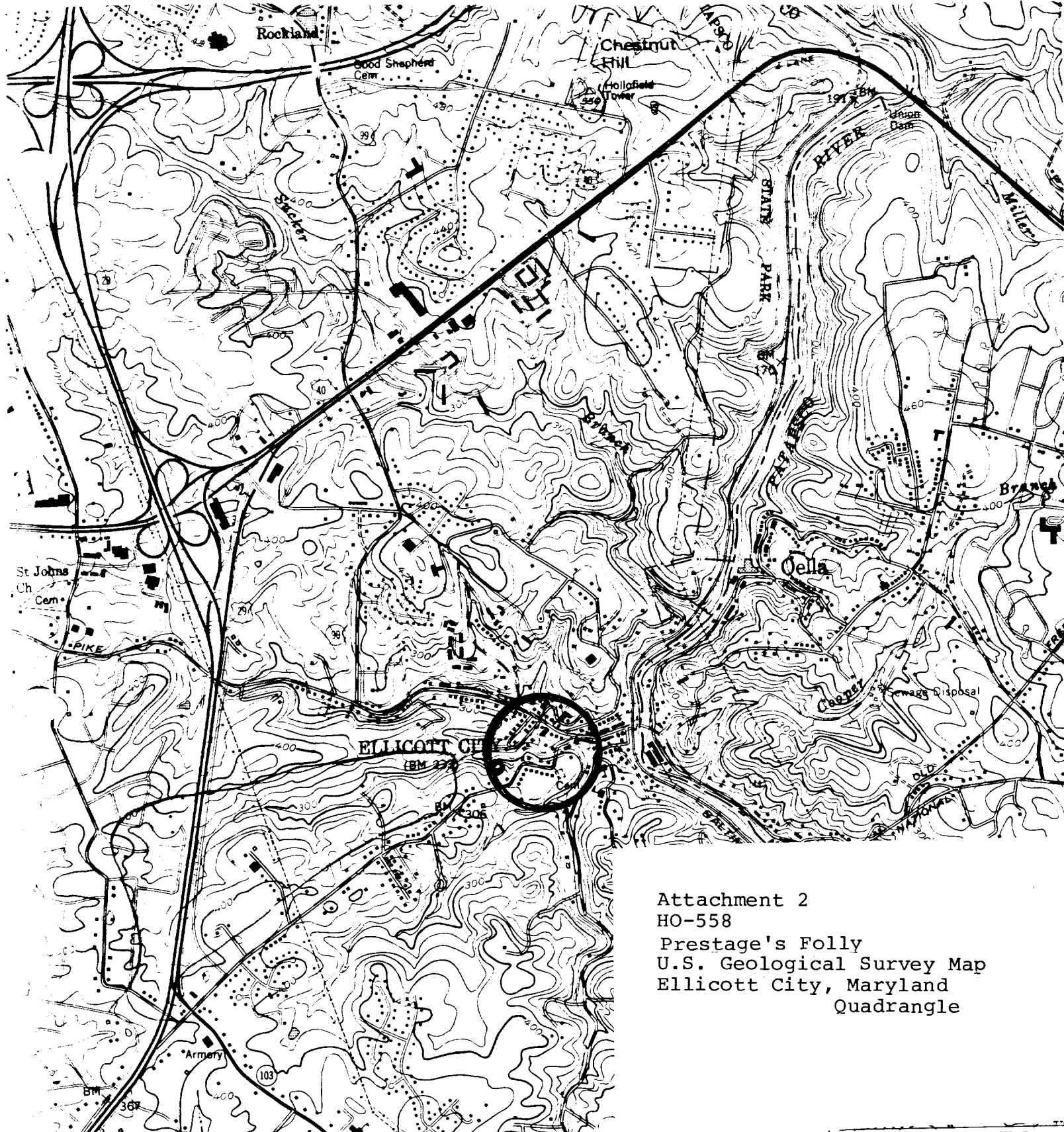


**EXPLANATIONS**  
 Dist. & Co. Lines .....  
 County Roads .....  
 Private " .....  
 Turnpike " .....  
 Rail Roads .....  
 Streams .....  
 The figures along the Roads  
 shows the distance in Rods,  
 from junction to junction thereof.

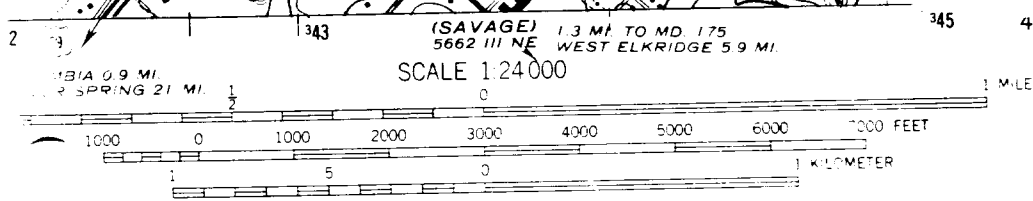


Attachment 3  
 HO - 558  
 Prestage's Folly  
 Hopkin's Atlas of 1878

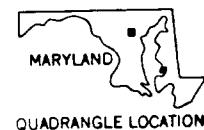
Entered according to Act of Congress in the year 1878  
 by G.M. Hopkins in the Office of the Librarian of Congress at Washington.



Attachment 2  
HO-558  
Prestage's Folly  
U.S. Geological Survey Map  
Ellicott City, Maryland  
Quadrangle



CONTOUR INTERVAL 20 FEET  
NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929



THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS



Name: HO-558  
Prestage's Folly  
Location: 3832 Old Columbia Pike  
Ellicott City, Maryland  
Photographer: Cleora B. Thompson, A.I.C.P.  
Date of photograph: April, 1980  
Negatives in possession of the Maryland Historical Trust  
View: Northeast  
Photographer looking: Southwest  
Photograph number: 1 of 1